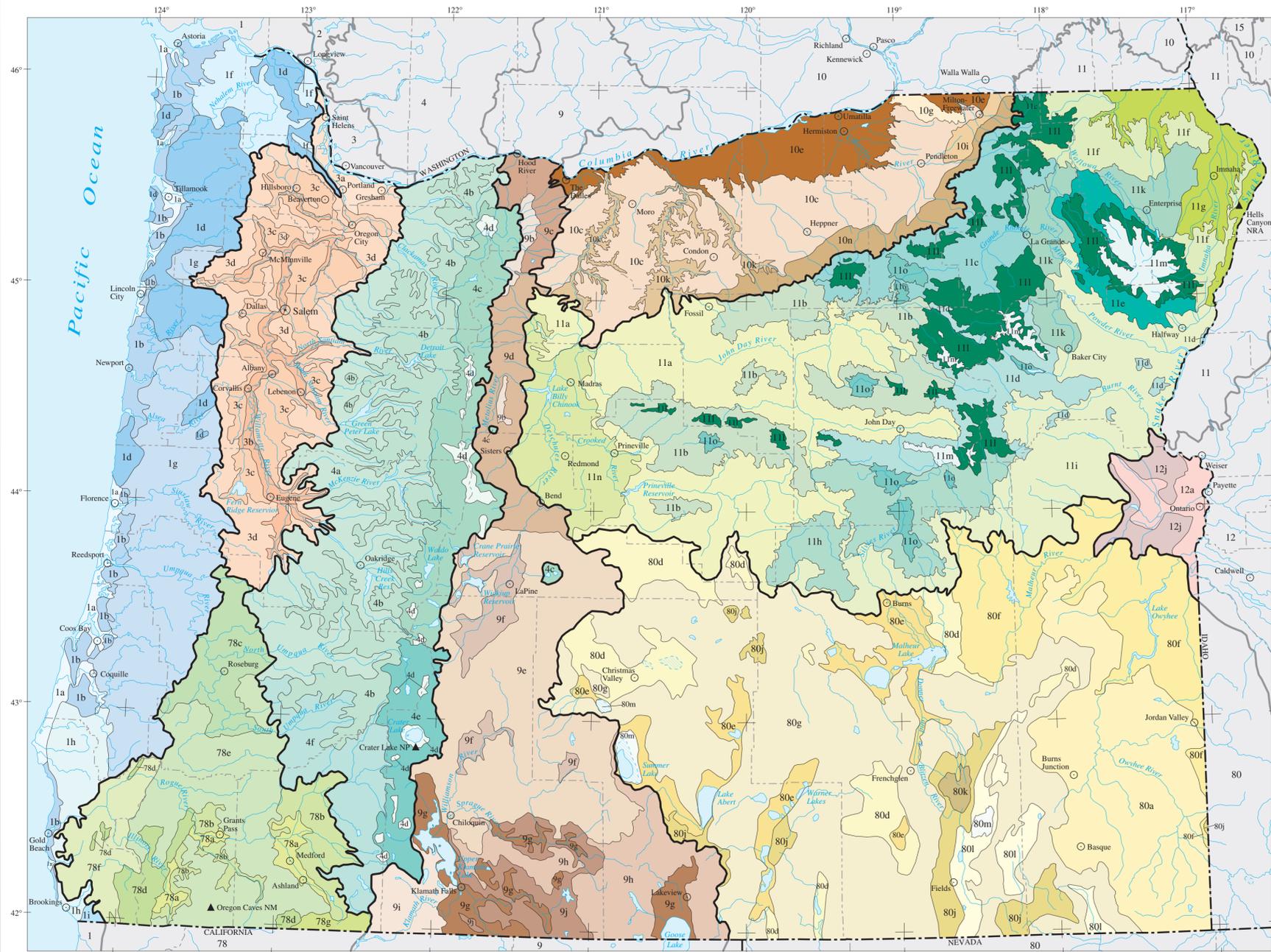
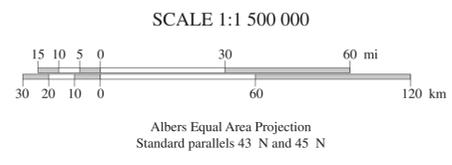


Ecoregions of Oregon



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|---|---|--|---|
| <p>1 Coast Range</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1a Coastal Lowlands 1b Coastal Uplands 1d Volcanics 1f Willapa Hills 1g Mid-Coastal Sedimentary 1h Southern Oregon Coastal Mountains 1i Redwood Zone <p>3 Willamette Valley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3a Portland/Vancouver Basin 3b Willamette River and Tributaries Gallery Forest 3c Prairie Terraces 3d Valley Foothills <p>4 Cascades</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4a Western Cascades Lowlands and Valleys 4b Western Cascades Montane Highlands 4c Cascade Crest Montane Forest 4d Cascade Subalpine/Alpine 4e High Southern Cascades Montane Forest 4f Southern Cascades | <p>9 Eastern Cascades Slopes and Foothills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9b Grand Fir Mixed Forest 9c Oak/Conifer Foothills 9d Ponderosa Pine/Bitterbrush Woodland 9e Pumice Plateau 9f Pumice Plateau Basins 9g Klamath/Goose Lake Basins 9h Fremont Pine/Fir Forest 9i Southern Cascades Slope 9j Klamath Juniper Woodland <p>10 Columbia Plateau</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10c Umatilla Plateau 10e Pleistocene Lake Basins 10g Yakima Folds 10i Deep Loess Foothills 10k Deschutes/John Day Canyons 10n Umatilla Dissected Uplands | <p>11 Blue Mountains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11a John Day/Clarno Uplands 11b John Day/Clarno Highlands 11c Maritime-Influenced Zone 11d Melange 11e Wallows/Seven Devils Mountains 11f Canyons and Dissected Highlands 11g Canyons and Dissected Uplands 11h Continental Zone Highlands 11i Continental Zone Foothills 11k Blue Mountain Basins 11l Mesic Forest Zone 11m Subalpine-Alpine Zone 11n Deschutes River Valley 11o Cold Basins <p>12 Snake River Plain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12a Treasure Valley 12j Unwooded Alkaline Foothills | <p>78 Klamath Mountains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 78a Rogue/Illinois Valleys 78b Oak Savanna Foothills 78c Umpqua Interior Foothills 78d Serpentine Siskiyou 78e Inland Siskiyou 78f Coastal Siskiyou 78g Klamath River Ridges <p>80 Northern Basin and Range</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80a Dissected High Lava Plateau 80d Pluvial Lake Basins 80e High Desert Wetlands 80f Owyhee Uplands and Canyons 80g High Lava Plains 80j Semi-arid Uplands 80k Partly Forested Mountains 80l Salt Shrub Valleys 80m Barren Playas |
|---|---|--|---|

Level III ecoregion County boundary
 Level IV ecoregion State boundary



Ecoregions denote areas of general similarity in ecosystems and in the type, quality, and quantity of environmental resources; they are designed to serve as a spatial framework for the research, assessment, management, and monitoring of ecosystems and ecosystem components. By recognizing the spatial differences in the capacities and potentials of ecosystems, ecoregions stratify the environment by its probable response to disturbance (Bryce and others, 1999). Ecoregions are directly applicable to the immediate needs of state agencies, including the development of biological criteria and water quality standards and the establishment of management goals for nonpoint-source pollution (Omernik and Griffith, 1991; Hughes and others, 1990; Whittier and others, 1988). They are also relevant to integrated ecosystem management, an ultimate goal of many federal and state resource management agencies.

The approach used to compile this map is based on the premise that ecological regions can be identified through the analysis of the spatial patterns and the composition of biotic and abiotic phenomena that affect or reflect differences in ecosystem quality and integrity (Wiken, 1986; Omernik, 1987, 1995). These phenomena include geology, physiography, vegetation, climate, soils, land use, wildlife distributions, and hydrology. The relative importance of each characteristic varies from one ecological region to another regardless of the hierarchical level. A Roman numeral hierarchical scheme has been adopted for different levels of ecological regions. Level I is the coarsest level, dividing North America into 15 ecological regions. Level II divides the continent into 52 regions (Commission for Environmental Cooperation Working Group, 1997). At level III, the continental United States contains 104 ecoregions and the conterminous United States has 84 ecoregions (United States Environmental Protection Agency [USEPA], 2003). Level IV is a further subdivision of level III ecoregions. Explanations of the methods used to define the USEPA's ecoregions are given in Omernik (1995), Omernik and others (2000), Griffith and others (1994), and Gallant and others (1989).

Oregon is ecologically diverse. The west side of the state has a marine-influenced climate and receives plentiful precipitation three seasons of the year. In contrast, eastern Oregon lies in the rain shadow of the Cascades and is much drier. The climatic gradient is evident in the state's landscapes: forested mountains, glaciated peaks, shrub- and grass-covered plains, agricultural valleys, beaches, desert plateaus, and wetlands. There are 9 level III ecoregions and 65 level IV ecoregions in Oregon and many continue into ecologically similar parts of adjacent states (Bryce and others, 2003; McGrath and others, 2002; Pater and others, 1998).

This level III and IV ecoregion map was compiled at a scale of 1:250,000. The western part was originally published as part of Pater and others (1998). The level IV lines in the Columbia Plateau and Blue Mountains were originally published in Clarke and Bryce (1997). Ecoregion boundaries in the remainder of Oregon depict revisions and subdivisions of earlier level III ecoregions that were originally compiled at a coarser scale (Omernik, 1987; USEPA, 2003).

This poster is the product of a collaborative effort primarily between the USEPA Region X, the USEPA National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory (Corvallis, Oregon), the Oregon Natural Heritage Program, the United States Department of Agriculture-Forest Service (USFS), the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) (formerly the Soil Conservation Service), and the United States Department of the Interior-Geological Survey (USGS)-Earth Resources Observation Systems (EROS) Data Center.

The Oregon ecoregion project is part of an interagency effort to develop a common framework of ecological regions for the United States. Reaching that objective requires recognition of the differences in the conceptual approaches and mapping methodologies applied to develop the most common ecoregion-type frameworks, including those developed by the USFS (Bailey and others, 1994), the USEPA (Omernik, 1987, 1995), and the NRCS (U.S. Department of Agriculture-Soil Conservation Service, 1981). As each of these frameworks is further refined, their differences are becoming less discernible. Regional collaborative projects, such as this one in Oregon, where agreement has been reached among multiple resource management agencies, are a step toward attaining consensus and consistency in ecoregion frameworks for the entire nation.

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Digital information can be obtained at <http://www.epa.gov/wed/pages/ecoregions/ecoregions.htm>.